

## MARYLAND

### Summary of Legislation

The “Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013,” took effect in 2013 and allows licensing boards to expedite the application process for military spouses of an Active Duty Service member of the United States Armed Forces who are assigned to a duty station in Maryland. Spouses of a deceased Veteran also qualify if they apply within one year from the date the Service member died. Licensing boards may also provide temporary licenses, which are valid for six months from the date of issuance. Temporary licenses allow applicants to complete any additional requirements for licensure. Spouses must complete an application and pay the appropriate fee, provide proof of military status, have a valid license in good standing, provide proof of marriage, complete a criminal background check, and apply for full licensure. Each licensing unit must publish the expedited process on their website.

**Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by:**

<input type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Temporary or provisional licensing
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Expedited application process
<input type="radio"/> Not addressed in legislation <input checked="" type="radio"/> Addressed in legislation	

#### Location of Bill:

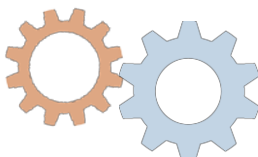
*Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 –*

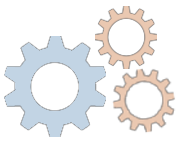
[http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_155\\_hb0225e.pdf](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Chapters_noln/CH_155_hb0225e.pdf)

### Results from Data Collection

#### General Findings

- Specific military spouse applications for temporary and expedited applications for real estate and cosmetology licenses are located on the Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation website, and a specific point person is listed on this website.
- The Boards of Cosmetology, Dental Hygiene, Mental Health Counselors, and the Real Estate Commission expedite military spouse applications.
- The Board of Massage Therapy waives fees associated with initial licensing.
- Dental hygienists are assigned an advisor to assist in the application process
- Occupational board staff were unaware of upcoming changes to policy or legislation.
- The boards did not report any exceptions to the process of transfer for licenses.
- Little information was available about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Results from Data Collection (continued)

### Findings Specific to Each Board

#### *Cosmetology*

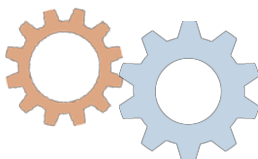
- Spouses must have completed a 1,500-hour training program or trained as a registered apprentice for at least 24 months at a licensed beauty school. Spouse must have also passed a written and practical exam and provide license verification. If previous license requirements are equivalent, the board may waive exam requirements.
- Spouses' applications are expedited, and completed applications are typically processed within two weeks.
- A one-time temporary license valid for nine months can be obtained while spouses complete state requirements for permanent licensure.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license through reciprocity takes up to four weeks.

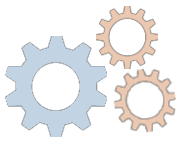
#### *Dental Hygiene*

- Spouses must provide license verification and clinical exam scores. Spouse must also have either passed the National Dental Hygiene Examination or been actively practicing for three years with an average of 450 hours per year.
- Military applicants are assigned an advisor to assist with the application process.
- The board reviews completed applications the first and third Wednesday of each month.
- Staff at the board reported that between three to four military spouses applied for licenses within the last year.

#### *Massage Therapy*

- Spouses must indicate their military status on the application and provide proof of military affiliation.
- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited program and passed the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) exam. They also must submit license verification(s) and provide three professional references.
- The application and jurisprudence exam fees are waived for military spouses.
- Completed applications are typically processed within 45 to 60 days. The board requires that applications be submitted 30 days prior to the exam date, but the board will work with military spouses who cannot meet this requirement.
- The board reported that 14 military Veterans and/or spouses applied for licenses within the last year.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Results from Data Collection (continued)

### *Mental Health Counseling*

- Military spouses with a minimum of three years of experience and 3,000 supervised hours must provide official transcripts, license verification with a copy of their license, three professional experience verification forms from employers, supervisors or colleagues, and passing scores on the National Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors, and practice under the supervision of an approved provider.
- Spouses with less than 3 years of experience and 3,000 supervised hours must provide official transcripts, meet the educational requirements, passing scored in the National Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors.
- Spouses must take a jurisprudence exam, which is administered twice a month by the board.
- Completed applications are typically processed within 60 days. Spouse applications may be expedited and processed in less than 60 days.

### *Occupational Therapy*

- Military spouses must have passed the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam or meet continuing education requirements, provided license verification(s), and passed a jurisprudence exam.
- Completed applications are typically processed within a few business days.

### *Real Estate Commission*

- Military spouses who provide license verification may have educational requirements waived, but are required to take a jurisprudence exam.
- Completed applications are typically processed within 14 to 30 business days. Spouse applications may be expedited and processed sooner if spouses indicate their military status to the board.
- The board reported that about 12 military spouses have transferred their license within the past year.

## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Advocate for legislation that provides support for temporary licenses for military spouses licensed in another state as most boards do not offer a temporary license option for spouses.
- Provide training to staff at occupational boards regarding licensing legislation for military spouses as many staff were unaware of current legislation for military spouses.



**For additional information, please contact:**  
Lynne M. Borden, Ph.D.  
Department of Family Social Science  
The University of Minnesota  
lmborden@umn.edu

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